Hidden Figures Questions And Answers

Hidden Figures Movie Questions Answer Key

1. What grade was Kathrine currently in when she was offered a full scholarship?
   a. 6th grade
2. What do the three ladies do for Nasa?
   a. The calculating.
3. What made the cop seem to change his mind about the ladies?
   a. He didn't want the Russians, the Commies, to beat the US into space
4. What type of life form did the Russians send into space that seemed to upset everyone at NASA, including the POTUS?
   a. They sent a dog
5. What did Mr. Webb think the Russian satellite was doing?
   a. Spying and taking pictures of everything in America, maybe a bomb would follow
6. What was the title of the computer lab that all the African Americans used?
   a. "Colored Computers"
7. Why hasn't Mary applied to be an engineer?
   a. She is a "Negro woman" as she says. She isn't going to apply for something she won't be considered for
8. What happened when Katherine walked into the Space Task Group?
   a. Someone put a trash can on her box and asked her to dump it. Then everyone stared at her
9. What was Katherine's position titled?
   a. "The computer"
10. When Katherine was told to check Paul's work by Paul personally, what did Katherine notice?
    a. He blacked out some numbers, he claimed it was classified and she didn't have clearance
11. Where did Katherine go to the restroom?
    a. She had to run outside her building, run across a parking lot, and into the West Building, where the "colored ladies" restroom was
12. What happened when Katherine went to go get coffee?
    a. Everyone stared at her, she tried to hide her cup. Clearly she wasn't supposed to drink out of that coffee
13. Why was Dorothy upset about not being a supervisor?
    a. Because she does the work of a supervisor but doesn't get paid. Nor will she ever get that job either because she is black. And the girls say it isn't fair
14. How did Mr. Johnson disrespect Kathrine when he first met her?
    a. He implied her job was very taxing for a woman and was surprised NASA hired women for her job title.
15. What requirement did Dorothy mention when she was naming some of the astronauts?
    a. 5'11" height, under 180 pounds, and IQ over 130

Hidden figures questions and answers are an essential aspect of understanding the significant contributions of African American women in the field of mathematics and science, particularly during the mid-20th century. The term "hidden figures" refers to the remarkable yet often overlooked contributions of these women, who played critical roles at NASA and other institutions. This article delves into various questions and answers related to the film "Hidden Figures," which highlights these contributions, as well as the historical context and implications of their work.

Overview of "Hidden Figures"

Synopsis of the Film

"Hidden Figures," directed by Theodore Melfi and released in 2016, is based on the non-fiction book by Margot Lee Shetterly. The film tells the true story of three brilliant African American women: Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson. They worked as mathematicians and engineers at NASA during the early years of the U.S. space program. The narrative follows their

struggles against racial and gender discrimination while making groundbreaking contributions to the success of space missions, including John Glenn's historic orbit around the Earth.

Main Characters

1. Katherine Johnson: A mathematician whose calculations were critical for the success of NASA missions, including the trajectory for John Glenn's orbital flight.
2. Dorothy Vaughan: A mathematician and computer programmer who became the first African American supervisor at NASA. She taught herself and her team the programming language FORTRAN.
3. Mary Jackson: An engineer who had to fight for the right to take engineering classes in a segregated school in order to advance her career.

Significance of Their Contributions

Impact on the Space Race

The work of these women was crucial during the Space Race, a tense period marked by competition between the United States and the Soviet Union. Their contributions included:

- Calculating trajectories: Katherine Johnson's calculations were vital for the success of several missions, including the Apollo moon landing.
- Innovating programming: Dorothy Vaughan's transition from traditional mathematics to computer programming helped NASA adapt to the technological advancements of the time.
- Engineering solutions: Mary Jackson's engineering work contributed to the design and operation of various aircraft and spacecraft.

Breaking Barriers

The film emphasizes not only the professional achievements of these women but also their personal battles against systemic racism and sexism. They broke through multiple barriers, which can be summarized as follows:

- Racial segregation: They worked in a segregated environment, often facing discrimination in the workplace.
- Gender inequality: Their achievements were often overshadowed by their male counterparts, and they had to work harder to gain recognition.
- Advocacy for rights: They became advocates for civil rights within their workplace, pushing for changes that benefited future generations.

Frequently Asked Questions

What inspired the creation of ''Hidden Figures''?

The film was inspired by Margot Lee Shetterly’s book, which sought to highlight the untold stories of African American women mathematicians at NASA. It aimed to bring attention to their remarkable contributions and the challenges they faced.

How historically accurate is ''Hidden Figures''?

While the film is based on true events and characters, certain dramatic elements were added for cinematic effect. The general portrayal of the characters and their contributions is accurate, although some details may have been altered or condensed for storytelling purposes.

What challenges did the women face at NASA?

The women faced numerous challenges, including:

- Segregation: They worked in a racially divided environment, with separate facilities for black and white employees.
- Gender bias: Their work was often underappreciated and overshadowed by male colleagues.
- Personal sacrifices: They had to juggle their professional responsibilities with family obligations, often at the expense of their personal lives.

What legacy did Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson leave behind?

The legacy of these women is profound:

- They opened doors for future generations of women and minorities in STEM fields.
- Their contributions have been recognized and celebrated, leading to increased awareness of diversity in science and mathematics.
- Katherine Johnson received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2015.

How has "Hidden Figures" influenced popular culture and education?

The film has had a significant impact by:

- Raising awareness about the contributions of women in STEM, especially women of color.
- Inspiring educational programs aimed at encouraging young girls and minorities to pursue careers in science and mathematics.
- Serving as a catalyst for discussions about diversity and inclusion in the workplace.

Key Themes in "Hidden Figures"

Empowerment and Resilience

The film showcases the resilience of the main characters, highlighting their determination to succeed despite the odds stacked against them. Their stories serve as an inspiration for anyone facing adversity, emphasizing the power of perseverance and self-belief.

The Importance of Collaboration

"Hidden Figures" illustrates the significance of teamwork. The women often worked together and supported one another, exemplifying how collaboration can lead to groundbreaking results. This theme also underscores the importance of acknowledging all contributions within a team, regardless of race or gender.

Breaking Stereotypes

The film challenges stereotypes about women and people of color in STEM fields. By portraying these women as intelligent, capable, and essential to NASA's success, "Hidden Figures" helps to dismantle harmful myths and encourages a more inclusive view of who can excel in these fields.

Conclusion

In summary, hidden figures questions and answers provide insight into the lives and contributions of Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, as well as the broader implications of their work for the fields of science and mathematics. The film "Hidden Figures" serves as a powerful reminder of the importance of recognizing and celebrating the contributions of women, particularly those from underrepresented backgrounds, in shaping history. Their legacy continues to inspire future generations to break barriers and pursue careers in STEM, fostering a more diverse and inclusive environment for all.

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the main themes explored in 'Hidden Figures'?

The main themes include racial and gender discrimination, the importance of perseverance, teamwork, and the impact of individual contributions to major historical events.

Who are the three main characters in 'Hidden Figures'?

The three main characters are Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who were all brilliant African American women working at NASA during the space race.

How did 'Hidden Figures' contribute to the conversation about STEM education for women and minorities?

'Hidden Figures' highlights the achievements of women and minorities in STEM, inspiring discussions about the need for diversity and representation in these fields, and encouraging young girls and underrepresented groups to pursue careers in science and technology.

What historical event does 'Hidden Figures' focus on?

The film focuses on NASA's early space missions, particularly the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit in 1962, and the crucial contributions of the three main characters to the success of the mission.

What impact did the women in 'Hidden Figures' have on NASA's work during the 1960s?

The women made significant contributions to complex calculations and programming that were essential for the success of space missions, overcoming both racial and gender barriers in a male-dominated field.

How is 'Hidden Figures' relevant to contemporary discussions about equality and representation?

'Hidden Figures' serves as a powerful reminder of the ongoing struggles for equality and representation in various fields, highlighting the importance of acknowledging and celebrating the contributions of marginalized individuals in history and society.

Hidden Figures Questions And Answers

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